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House Local Government Committee
House Bill 5 Proponent Testimony
March 10, 2015

Good morning Madam Chair and members of the Local Government Committee. Good morning Representative Reece, whom I had the pleasure to serve, while you were on Cincinnati City Council.

I am here specifically to address the ShareOhio portion of House Bill 5.

As part of my responsibilities as Director of Public Services with the City of Cincinnati, I oversee the Fleet Division which manages about 3,000 pieces, including over 1,100 large road vehicles. We want to use the ShareOhio program and its portal to create immediately an internal pool of equipment to be shared within the city departments. As you probably realize, many larger pieces are undoubtedly needed for specific tasks but are only needed few hours, or few days in a year. Combining resources amongst the various departments would generate savings to the taxpayers.

Our ultimate goal, however, is to be able to share these equipment pieces with the other municipalities of our region. We convened a meeting on February 4, 2015 with about 30 officials of the region to talk about the potential benefits of this program. The benefits are undeniable but the overarching issue that seemed to create a “nonstarter” was the issue about liability. Municipalities are not willing to assume legal responsibilities when equipment is on loan.

HB 5 addresses this issue and doing so, removes a very big hurdle in the ability local governments will have to share equipment.

Thank you